

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4612

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 3609

DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE FAS HUME

VIENNA FOR AGATT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, OVIP (BUTZ, EARL L.), HU

SUBJ: MEETING WITH MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE ROMANY

1. AMBASSADOR AND AGATT MET WITH HUNGARIAN MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE ROMANY ON NOV 6 TO DISCUSS FORTHCOMING VISIT BY SECRETARY BUTZ TO HUNGARY. MEETING RESOLVED VERY LITTLE. FOLLOWING MAJOR POINTS EMERGED FROM DISCUSSION.

2. AMBASSADOR IN HIS OPENING REMARKS SAID SECRETARY BUTZ WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO HIS VISIT TO HUNGARY, PARTICULARLY SINCE HE HAS HEARD HUNGARY HAS THE MOST ADVANCED AGRICULTURE IN EASTERN EUROPE. WHILE THE PROGRAM DEVELOPED BY THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE LOOKS VERY INTERESTING AND IMPRESSIVE, SECRETARY BUTZ IS ALSO VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN SUBSTANCE OF HIS TRIP, NAMELY POSSIBLE TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION.

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(A) IN ORDER TO FORESTALL POSSIBLE FRUITLESS

DISCUSSIONS OF CCC CREDIT ON SOYBEAN MEALS DURING SECRETARY BUTZ' VISIT, AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT AT ONSET THAT DUE TO CONTINUED STRONG WORLDWIDE DEMAND FOR SOYBEAN MEALS, IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO PLACE THIS COMMODITY ON THE CCC CREDIT LIST. HOWEVER, THE LARGE U.S. SOYBEAN CROP ASSURES ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF MEAL AT REGULAR COMMERCIAL TERMS TO HUNGARY.

(B) U.S. VERY MUCH INTERESTED LEARNING MORE ABOUT LATEST HUNGARIAN-USSR LONG-TERM TRADE AGREEMENT AS WELL AS AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER CEMA COUNTRIES. ASKED WHETHER AGREEMENT COVERS OTHER AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES BEYOND THOSE REPORTED IN NEWS MEDIA ON FRESH AND PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.

(C) SECRETARY BUTZ AND UNDERSECRETARY CAMPBELL WERE LOOKING FORWARD TO MR. VANCSEA'S VISIT TO THE U.S. AND REGRETTED TRIP WAS POSTPONED. SUGGESTED MINAG GIVE US VIEWS, IDEAS AND TIMETABLE ABOUT HIS TRIP WELL IN ADVANCE SO VISIT CAN BE PREPARED IN TIME.

3. IN HIS REPLY MINISTER ROMANY EXPRESSED HIS PLEASURE ABOUT SECRETARY BUTZ' VISIT AND SAID PROGRAM (BABOLNA, ETC.) WAS DEVELOPED ON BASIS OF RECOMMENDATION FROM HUNGARIAN AGATT IN WASHINGTON. HE EMPHASIZED PROGRAM FLEXIBLE AND CAN BE CHANGED IF SECRETARY BUTZ SO WISHES.

(A) VANCSEA VISIT NOW PLANNED FOR SECOND QUARTER 1976 AND BY END OF THIS YEAR MINAG WILL KNOW MORE ABOUT HIS TRIP AND WILL INFORM US ACCORDINGLY.

(B) ROMANY WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH QUESTION OF CCC CREDIT FOR SOYBEAN MEALS. HE SAID KAZARECZKI, WHO IS NOW ON VACATION, DID NOT REPEAT NOT BRIEF HIM ABOUT THIS MATTER. HUNGARY HAD A GOOD SOYBEAN CROP YEAR BUT STILL NEEDS IMPORTS OF SOYBEAN MEAL AND WILL CONTINUE TO IMPORT FROM THE U.S.

(C) THE MINISTER ALSO SAID THAT HE WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE HUNGARIAN-USSR TRADE AGREEMENT BEYOND WHAT WAS ALREADY REPORTED. PREPARATIONS ARE NOW UNDERWAY TO DEVELOP
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THE NEXT FIVE-YEAR PLAN WHICH WILL HAVE TO BE PLACED INTO THE CONTEXT OF THE LONGER RANGE TRADE AGREEMENT WITH THE USSR. HE SAID BY THE TIME SECRETARY BUTZ VISITS BUDAPEST HE WILL KNOW MORE ABOUT THIS SUBJECT. HE ADDED THAT HIS ASSOCIATES WILL BE ALSO READY TO DISCUSS OTHER MATTERS INITIATED DURING UNDERSECRETARY CAMPBELL'S VISIT EARLIER THIS YEAR.

(D) ON SPECIFIC TOPICS WHICH HUNGARIANS WISH TO DISCUSS DURING SECRETARY BUTZ' VISIT, ROMANY WAS DISAPPOINTINGLY VAGUE. HE DID MENTION SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND INVESTMENT PROBLEMS AND MACHINERY REGARDING PRODUCTION OF PROTEIN FROM ANIMAL SOURCE. HE ALSO MENTIONED PRODUCTION FACILITIES FOR THE EXTRACTION OF OIL SEEDS (SUNFLOWER).

4. COMMENT: ROMANY GAVE THE CLEAR IMPRESSION OF LACKING SELF ASSURANCE. PERHAPS HE HAD EXPECTED EMPTY DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGE DURING MCAULIFFE'S COURTESY VISIT AND FOR THAT REASON HAD NOT BRIEFED HIMSELF IN ADVANCE. ALTHOUGH WE LEARNED NEXT TO NOTHING FROM ROMANY, WE HAVE PUT GOH CLEARLY ON NOTICE THAT SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE COMING TO BUDAPEST TO TALK BUSINESS AND TO ADDRESS HIMSELF TO SPECIFIC ISSUES. ON OTHER HAND, BOTH MCAULIFFE AND AGATT ARE DEAD CERTAIN THAT ROMANY GENUINELY WELCOMES PERSONAL VISIT BY SECRETARY BUTZ AND HOPES EXPAND US-HUNGARIAN AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION. MCAULIFFE

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